

REMARKS

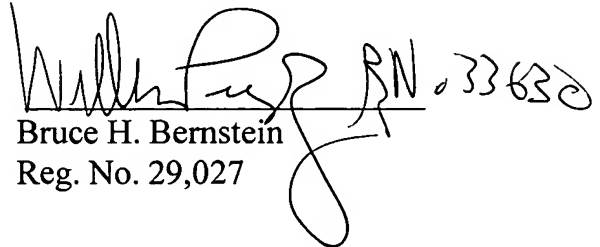
By the above amendment, the claims will have been amended to delete the reference numeral citations, to eliminate means terminology, and to enhance the clarity thereof.

Applicants note that by the above amendment, “caulk” has been changed to “crimp”. This term is more faithful to the language of the foreign application upon which the present application is based and is also explicitly shown in, e.g., Figure 1. Accordingly, this change does not introduce prohibited new matter into the application.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that the claims have been amended without narrowing the scope thereof. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims have not been made to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art and thus should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability. Thus, no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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